

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-10 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AEC-11 OC-06 CCO-00

NIC-01 SY-10 USSS-00 OPR-02 A-01 DRC-01 /196 W

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P R 291235Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3260

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 3239

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US UG IS XF CG TZ ZA

SUBJECT: USG-GOU RELATIONS: GENERAL AMIN'S WHIRLWIND TRIP

LIBYA, EGYPT, SUDAN AND TANZANIA

SUMMARY: GENERAL AMIN SPENT A BUSY WEEKEND (26-28 OCTOBER) VISITING LIBYA, EGYPT, SUDAN AND TANZANIA PROVIDING ADVICE TO HIS ARAB FRIENDS AND BRIEFING THE HEADS OF STATE OF TANZANIA, ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AMIN'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN CAIRO GAVE HIM ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO CONDEMN ISRAELI "AGRESSION" AND TO CRITICIZE THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS "INTERFERENCE" IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR. HE ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF "TESTING NUCLEAR WEAPONS" ON THE ARABS AND OF SAVING ISRAEL FROM TOTAL DEFEAT BY THE ARABS. HE COMMENDED THE SOVIET UNION FOR "KEEPING ITS HANDS CLEAN" IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND CALLED FOR
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EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UNITED NATIONS IF IT VIOLATES UN

RESOLUTIONS. HE ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE UN HEADQUARTERS BE MOVED FROM NEW YORK IF THE UNITED STATES ALSO "DISRESPECTS" THE UNITED NATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL AMIN DEPARTED ENTEBBE DURING THE EVENING OF 26 OCTOBER FOR LIBYA, EGYPT AND THE SUDAN TO DISCUSS THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AND ADVISE HIS ARAB FRIENDS WHAT THEY SHOULD DO NEXT. THE LOCAL MEDIA PROVIDED NO COVERAGE OF AMIN'S VISIT TO LIBYA BUT PRESUMABLY HE MET WITH COLONEL QADHAFI. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO, AMIN CONFERRED WITH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT AND V.P. SHAFI' AND THEN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT CAIRO AIRPORT BEFORE SRETURNING TO UGANDA ON 27 OCTOBER VIA KHARTOUM, WHERE HE SAW NUMAYRI. JUDGING FROM A BRIEF FILM SHOWN ON UGANDA TELEVISION ON 28 OCTOBER, AMIN SPENT VERY LITTLE TIME WITH PRESIDENT SADAT, WHO LOOKED PREOCCUPIED AND SOMEWHAT IN A HURRY TO USHER HIS UGANDAN VISITOR BACK ON THE AIRPLANE FOR KAMPALA.

2. THE NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE CAIRO AIRPORT AFFORED AMIN AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE SOME OFF-THE-CUFF MILITARY ADVICE TO THE EGYPTIANS REGARDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR TROOPS FROM SINAI AND TO WARN OF ISRAELI PLANS TO USE THE CEASE-FIRE TO GAIN MORE TERRITORY. AMIN PRAISED SADAT FOR NOT BOMBING ISRAELI CIVILIAN TARGETS AS THE "ISRAELIS HAD DONE IN DAMASCUS." ACCORDING TO HIS PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE "FRONTLINES" AMIN SAID THAT ISRAEL HAD LOST THE WAR IN THE FIRST FIVE DAYS AND IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE AMERICANS WHO "INTERFERED IMMEDIATELY," THE ARABS WOULD HAVE WON A DECISIVE VICTORY. HE MADE AN ABSURD CLAIM THAT THE "AMERICANS HAVE BEEN TESTING THEIR STRONG NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST THE ARABS, A THING THEY HAVE NEVER DONE BEFORE." ACCORDING TO AMIN, THE AMERICANS INTRODUCED THESE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS BECAUSE ISRAEL HAD LOST MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF HER BEST PILOTS. HE THANKED THE SOVIET UNION FOR "KEEPING HER HANDS CLEAN AS FAR AS THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS IN THE MIDDLE EAST ARE CONCERNED." HE CALLED UPON THE UNITED STATES TO PULL OUT OF THE MIDDLE EAST IMMEDIATELY, AND PITIED THE POOR AMERICANS, "WHO WERE BLINDLY DECEIVED BY THE ISRAELIS INTO BEING RECRUITED TO FIGHT FOR NO CAUSE." AMIN BELIEVED THAT IF THE WAR HAD BEEN LEFT ENTIRELY TO THE ISRAELIS, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN EASILY CRUSHED BY THE ARABS.

3. WHEN ASKED WHAT DECISION HE WOULD HAVE MADE REGARDING THE
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CEASE-FIRE IF HE WERE PRESIDENT SADAT, AMIN SAID HE WOULD HAVE ONLY ACCEPTED THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT AFTER ISRAEL HAD WITHDRAWN FROM THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN LAND OF 1948 AND ALL THE ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED SINCE 1967. HE THEN ADDED, "THE AMERICANS HAVE GONE DEEP AND WERE NOW FIGHTING TOWARDS CAIRO HAVING NOW CAPTURED THE WEST BANK OF THE SUEZ CANAL DESPITE THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER TEAMS' PRESENCE IN THE AREA."

4. AMIN SAID THAT ISRAEL SHOULD BE EXPELLED FROM THE UNITED NATIONS IF IT VIOLATES THE UN RESOLUTIONS AND DISRESPECTS THE UN CHARTER. THE GENERAL ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IF AMERICA ALSO DISRESPECTS THE UNITED NATIONS WHEN "IT IS SITUATED THERE, THE BODY SHOULD THEN BE REMOVED FROM NEW YORK TO ANY COUNTRY WHICH RESPECTS IT." AT THIS JUNCTURE, AMIN SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT AMERICANS ARE "NOT BAD PEOPLE BUT THEIR COUNTRY'S POLICIES." HE REITERATED THAT THE "AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS CONTROLLED BY JEWS WHO ARE LEADING PRESIDENT NIXON TO HIS DOOM."

5. AMIN WAS ASKED BY ONE OF THE CORRESPONDENTS ABOUT THE "RECENT ATTEMPTED INVASION BY BRITISH AND AMERICAN COMMANDOS." AMIN RESPONDED THAT HE IS AN EXPERT IN CRUSHING INVADERS, AND IF THEY CAME, "THEY WOULD BE MOST WELCOME." HE SAID AMERICA IS ALWAYS READY TO ASSIST WEAK COUNTRIES, AND THAT IS WHAT SHE DID WHEN SHE REALIZED THAT ISRAEL HAD NO CHANCE OF WINNING THE BATTLE.

6. ON HIS WAY BACK TO UGANDA, AMIN STOPPED AT KHARTOUM, WHERE HE MET SUDANESE PRESIDENT NUMAYRI AND BRIEFED HIM ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON THE EGYPTIAN FRONT AND HIS RECENT TRIPS TO SIX ARAB COUNTRIES. THE UGANDAN NEWS MEDIA DID NOT REPORT ON NUMAYRI'S REACTION TO AMIN'S BRIEF STOP-OVER IN KHARTOUM.

7. THERE WAS A COMPLETE NEWS BLACKOUT ON AMIN'S WHIRLWIND TRIP TO LIBYA, EGYPT AND SUDAN UNTIL THE MORNING AFTER HIS RETURN TO KAMPALA. HOWEVER, IT WAS OBVIOUS TO MOST OBSERVERS THAT AMIN WAS OUT OF THE COUNTRY BECAUSE HE WAS NOT AT THE AIRPORT TO GREET ZAIRE PRESIDENT MOBUTU WHEN HE MADE A BRIEF STOP IN ENTEBBE DURING THE AFTERNOON OF 27 OCTOBER ENROUTE TO A MEETING WITH TANZANIAN PRESIDENT NYERERE AND ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA IN MWANZA, TANZANIA. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS, PRESIDENT MOBUTU WILL STOP OVER AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT ON 29 OCTOBER ENROUTE
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TO ZAIRE. GOVERNMENT AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS PLUS THE GENERAL PUBLIC WERE REQUESTED TO TURN UP IN LARGE NUMBERS TO WELCOME HIM.

8. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS, AMIN DEPARTED FOR MWANZA DURING THE MORNING OF 28 OCTOBER AND RETURNED TO KAMPALA THE SAME DAY AFTER ATTENDING A TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH THE CHIEFS OF STATE OF ZAIRE, TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA. THE FOUR AFRICAN LEADERS DISCUSSED PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO THE FOUR COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO UGANDAN MEDIA, AMIN BRIEFED THEM ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION FOR WHICH HE WAS THNKED AND TOLD "THEY NOW HAVE A VERY CLEAR PICTURE OF WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE MIDDLE EAST." ACCOMPANYING AMIN TO MWANZA WAS THE NEWLY SWORN-IN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, LT. COLONEL MICHAEL ONDOGA. KAMPALA A-313 REPORTED THAT AMIN HAD GIVEN ONDOGA UNTIL 28 OCTOBER TO REPORT IN FROM HIS PREVIOUS

POST AS AMBASSADOR TO THE SOVIET UNION OR ELSE HE WOULD BE
RETIRED. APPARENTLY ONDOGA HEEDED AMIN'S ULTIMATUM AND RETURNED
PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR US UG IS XF CG TZ ZA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KAMPAL03239
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KAMPALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973106/aaaaadtd.tel
Line Count: 173
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Aug-2001 by phillir0>; APPROVED <17-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USG-GOU RELATIONS: GENERAL AMIN'S WHIRLWIND TRIP LIBYA, EGYPT, SUDAN AND TANZANIA
TAGS: n/a
To: SECSTATE WASHDC NAIROBI DAR ES SALAAM KINSHASA LAGOS LUSAKA LONDON ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005